

Installation Guidance Note: Corkment

Product Description

Corkment is an acoustic underlay designed for use with Forbo linoleum and sheet vinyl products and is manufactured by calendaring cork granules, oxidised linseed oil and other materials onto a jute backing and then curing it – a process similar to manufacturing linoleum.

Corkment (2m width, 2mm thick) is available in rolls up to 32 linear metres.

Note: *Corkment is not suitable for use under acoustic linoleum/vinyl floor coverings or vinyl tiles.*

Benefits

- Under 2.5mm Marmoleum, 2.0mm Corkment gives an impact sound reduction of ΔL_w 14 dB
- The thickness of 4.5mm provided by 2.5mm Marmoleum and 2.0mm Corkment, meets the requirements for impact sound improvement for dwellings in Building Regulations Part E section 3.28
- Long lasting – does not decompose in use
- Provides some underfoot comfort without being a tiring surface on which to push trolleys

General Advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

The installation of Corkment should be carried out in accordance with BS8203:2017 code of practice for the installation of resilient floor coverings. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the base. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (waiting and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.

Always conduct moisture tests on **all** substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

It is essential that the laying area is at a steady temperature of minimum 18°C, 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 24 hours prior to the installation. Where the underlay has been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatisation period should be extended to 48 hours.

Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation. Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.

Prior to installation rolls should be checked to ensure that the correct quantity has been received and that the material is in good condition. No claim will be accepted for obvious damage if the material has been fitted.

Note: *As with all newly installed floor coverings, Corkment and any floor covering installed on it, should be protected from heavy traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic, for 72 hours and must not be washed for 48 hours after installation.*



Underfloor heating

Corkment can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems.

A separate guidance note “**Installation of Forbo Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems**” provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

Adhesive Recommendations and application

Corkment should be fully adhered to the subfloor using Forbo Eurocol 611 Eurostar Lino Plus, a low emission EC1 adhesive.

If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

Use a 2mm x 6mm V notched or B1 trowel to apply the adhesive.

Note: *Trowels will wear during use, check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper, specified trowel notch is used and maintained.*

Note: *the adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters.*

Install one length of sheet at a time, making sure to place the material into wet adhesive and roll afterwards with a 68 kg roller, rolling in all directions to ensure a firm bond. It is important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the open time of the adhesive.

Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as door frames or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing hammer.

Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.

Installation

Corkment is fully adhered to the subfloor using an approved linoleum adhesive – see adhesive recommendations above.

When used with sheet floor coverings, Forbo recommend that Corkment is installed at right angles to the direction of installation of the floor covering.

Note: *If the Corkment and the finished floor covering must be installed in the same direction as the sheet floor covering a minimum 15cm overlap should be allowed at the seams.*

If Corkment is installed underneath linoleum tiles, then care should be taken to ensure that seams in the Corkment do not coincide with joints in the tiles.

Under linoleum Corkment is installed with the **hessian side upwards**.

Under sheet vinyl the **cork side should face upwards**.

Cut the sheet material to the required lengths and then back roll each cut length before scribing to the long wall and length ends in order to release any roll tension from the winding of the sheet. Once the sheet has been back rolled stand the cut lengths upright in this state for approximately 15 minutes before unrolling for fitting.

Forbo recommends that Corkment is installed one sheet at a time. Always install all Corkment sheets in the same direction. It is recommended that each sheet be scribed-to-fit and that the factory edge be properly removed before adhering (see below).

Seams should always be under-scribed after the material has been placed into the adhesive and rolled. Following these recommendations will give the installer the best opportunity to manage the open and working time of the adhesive and ensure that the flooring material is placed into wet adhesive.

Note: *regardless of the top floor covering seams should be cut to leave a nett fit (closed) seam. However, as with linoleum sheet, allowance must be made for a fractional expansion in the width of the hessian backed material as it picks up moisture from the adhesive. This expansion is minute and will be halted by the curing of the special linoleum adhesive, but unless allowed for in cutting, tightly cut seams will peak and fail (this is not a product defect).*

The recommended procedure for cutting net fit seams can be found in the Forbo installation Guidance note for Marmoleum sheet.



Important note: the installed underlay should be **left for at least 24 hours** before laying the floor covering (this is to allow the adhesive to dry).

The chosen floor covering should be adhered to the top of the Corkment using the Forbo Eurocol linoleum or vinyl adhesive appropriate to the floor covering.

The installation guidance for the chosen floor covering should always be followed.

If in any doubt contact us:

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Additional Reference documents and information:

- Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**
- BS8203:2017
- The CFA Guide to Contract Flooring (Tel: 01159 411126)